

**To:** EOC Public Information[EOC\_Public\_Information@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Lee, Monica[Lee.Monica@epa.gov]  
**From:** Abrams, Dan  
**Sent:** Tue 8/18/2015 6:30:22 PM  
**Subject:** RE: can one of you call me ASAP? thanks 564-2507

Thanks - I'll put this in talking points and let the JIC know where they will need to get on the ground experts to answer.

**From:** Senn, John **On Behalf Of** EOC Public Information  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 18, 2015 2:28 PM  
**To:** Abrams, Dan  
**Cc:** Lee, Monica  
**Subject:** Re: can one of you call me ASAP? thanks 564-2507

we don't have info for the second Q re securing the site. Here is what we have on the web re current activities at the site/in the area:

As water exits the mine, the water flows into a system of four treatment ponds. The treatment ponds provide retention time to allow the addition of lime to neutralize the pH. Substances to treat water are added during the process to settle the metals to the bottom of the retention ponds. One additional retention pond is being added to the treatment system to allow crews to manage the solids that has settled out to date. This additional pond will allow the treatment system to maintain efficiency as the crews are managing the existing ponds.

A water treatment system will be installed on site as part of short-term actions for water treatment. Planning is in place for a treatment solution that includes pipes to allow the mine water to flow to a lower mine site with a better location for water treatment to continue into the fall. Longer-term treatment needs and options are being evaluated.

EPA teams continue to collect water samples in the Animas River and in shallow, domestic private wells adjacent to the river. EPA, state and local response teams continue to evaluate water quality in shallow domestic wells adjacent to the Animas River.

This is what we have posted on the response web page re scope of work at the mine.

Not super-specific, but area command/R8 may have more info on this than we do.

Until approximately 2005, water quality in the Animas River was improving. However, since 2005, water quality in the Animas River has not improved and, for at least 20 miles below the confluence with Cement Creek and the water quality has declined significantly. Impacts to aquatic life were also demonstrated by fish population surveys conducted by Colorado Parks and Wildlife, which found no fish in the Animas River below Cement Creek for approximately two miles and observed precipitous declines in fish populations as far as 20 miles downstream since 2005.

Because of this declining water quality in the Animas River, in 2008, EPA's Superfund Site Assessment program began investigations in Upper Cement Creek focused on evaluating whether the Upper Cement Creek area alone would qualify for inclusion on the NPL. This evaluation indicated that the area would qualify, although after receiving additional community input, EPA postponed efforts to include the area on the National Priorities List. Since that time, EPA has continued and broadened its investigations of conditions at the site in order to understand the major sources of heavy metal contamination in the Upper Animas.

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**From:** Abrams, Dan  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 18, 2015 2:15 PM  
**To:** EOC Public Information  
**Subject:** RE: can one of you call me ASAP? thanks 564-2507

Channel 9 news is going to the site with the mine owner. We need to have a PIO there with top line messaging on the response, the Administrator's role, and it must include answers to the questions that the reporter sent Nancy Grantham:

-Current EPA efforts on the Gold King Site

-What do you have to do to secure/prepare the site for this winter to minimize further contamination?

-What has been the scope of work in the last year on the Gold King mine entrance? The owner believes the EPA crews may have blocked some of the water flow from Gold King last fall, leading to the backup released on August 5<sup>th</sup>.

Please send to me and Monica when you're good – hopefully you could pull something together by around 3pm..they need to have someone on the ground at the site no later than 5pm EST so this is time sensitive.

-Dan

**From:** Gentile, Laura **On Behalf Of** EOC Public Information  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 18, 2015 2:11 PM  
**To:** Abrams, Dan  
**Subject:** Re: can one of you call me ASAP? thanks 564-2507

yep, calling in 1 min

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**From:** Abrams, Dan  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 18, 2015 2:10 PM  
**To:** EOC Public Information  
**Subject:** can one of you call me ASAP? thanks 564-2507

**Dan Abrams**

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